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ABSTRACT

The material in this bulletin provides a nationally representative sample of base line data on the availability of television (TV) and other technologies in the classroom. Information is presented for all public schools, by elementary and secondary levels, on four matters: 1) the percentage of schools possessing TV receivers, videotape recorders (VTR), or both; 2) the number of schools which have TV receivers, VTR, closed circuit instructional television fixed services and radios; 3) The percentage of schools with TV receivers which utilize educational technology; and 4) the number of TV receivers per classroom. Statistics indicate that 75% of all schools have TV, 26% have VTR, 22% have both, and 21% have neither VTR nor TV. Other significant findings include the facts that 82% of all pupils are in schools with TV, that only 13% of the schools--mostly located in rural areas--have none of the four above mentioned forms of instructional technology, that more than 70% of the schools with TV use educational television, and that the median number of TV sets per school is two, meaning that simultaneous use of TV by different classes within a school is highly limited. (LB)

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BULLETIN

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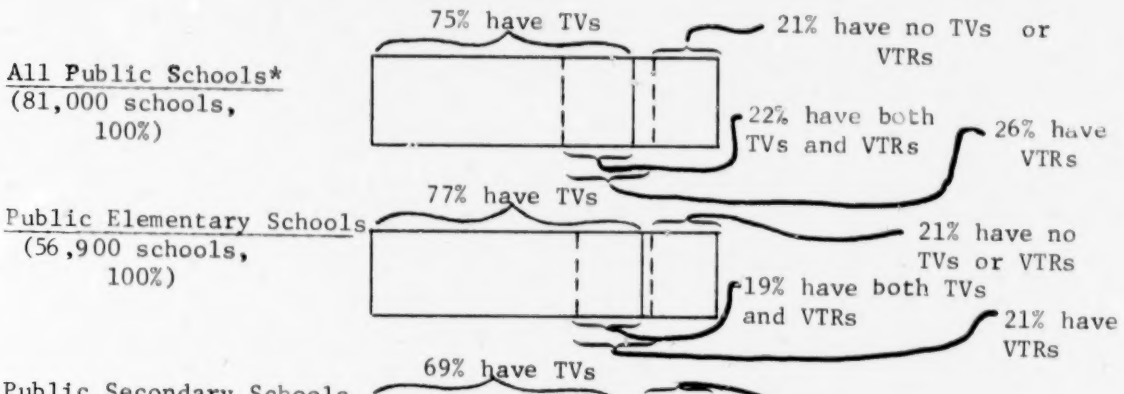
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE/Office of Education

BASIC STATISTICS ON INSTRUCTIONAL TELEVISION AND OTHER TECHNOLOGIES --PUBLIC SCHOOLS, SPRING 1970

Three out of Four Public Schools Now Have TV Receivers and One in Four have Videotape Recorders(VTRs)- - -


All Public Schools*
(81,000 schools, 100%)
75% have TVs
21% have no TVs or VTRs
22% have both TVs and VTRs
26% have VTRs
Public Elementary Schools
(56,900 schools, 100%)
77% have TVs
21% have no TVs or VTRs
19% have both TVs and VTRs
21% have VTRs
Public Secondary Schools
(20,200 schools, 100%)
69% have TVs
24% have no TVs or VTRs
29% have both TVs and VTRs
36% have VTRs

* The total for all schools includes an estimated 3,900 combined elementary-secondary schools which are not included in data by school level.

Source: The School Staffing Survey, Spring 1970. The survey was conducted by the National Center for Educational Statistics, USOE, with technical assistance on instructional technology from the Bureau of Libraries and Educational Technology, and with support from the Bureau of Educational Personnel Development and the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped. The National Center for Educational Research and Development supported the pilot survey which preceded the 1970 survey. The data presented in this bulletin are preliminary. This is the first time these statistics have been gathered. No trends can be projected from them.

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- New data of unusual interest
- Special analyses of new developments
- Statistical highlights on educational issues

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National Center for Educational Statistics
Office of Education

Here is an NCES Management Bulletin presenting the Center's first nationally representative base-line data on the availability of television and other instructional technologies for classroom use.

Comments will be welcomed.

Dorothy M. Gilford

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Educational Statistics

Television receivers are more widespread among public schools in the United States for classroom use than either radios or videotape recorders according to principals' reports in spring 1970. Relatively few schools (9%) have closed-circuit ITFS (Instructional Television Fixed Service) systems,a/ but 11% of local public school pupils (which totaled about 44 million) are in those schools. A larger proportion of elementary than secondary schools have TV receivers, while the reverse is true for videotape recorders.

Instructional technologies	Number and percent of schools					
	All schools b/		Elementary		Secondary	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total schools	81,000	100	56,900	100	20,200	100
With TV receivers ...	61,000	75	43,700	77	14,200	70
With closed-circuit ITFS system a/	7,100	9	4,300	8	2,800	14
With radios	44,700	55	27,200	52	12,600	62
With videotape recorders	20,900	26	12,100	21	7,200	36

a/ Closed-circuit/ITFS (Instructional Television Fixed Service) television system refers to broadcasting not receivable by the general public. This is televised instruction or information only made available to specified locations for specific individuals or groups. The use of a combination of a portable videotape recorder and/or accompanying single camera and television monitor sometimes used for observation or magnification purposes is also considered closed-circuit TV.

b/ The total for all schools includes an estimated 3,900 combined elementary-secondary schools which are not included in data by school level.

Source, continued:

The spring 1970 survey sample consisted of approximately 1,200 public elementary and secondary schools, representative of the Nation's public schools by three strata: large cities (over 100,000 population as of 1960 Census), the metropolitan areas surrounding these cities, and all other areas of the 50 States and the District of Columbia. Although the data presented here are based on a sample, they are not likely to differ by more than a few percentage points from the results that would have been obtained from a complete canvass of all public elementary and secondary schools. Specific measures of sampling reliability of the estimates will appear in a forthcoming report of the survey.

Highlights:

--82% of all pupils are in schools having TV receivers.

--In large cities, more than 90% of public schools have TV receivers.

--In suburban areas surrounding these large cities, 47% of secondary schools, with 56% of secondary pupils, have videotape recorders.

--Only 13% of schools, mostly away from large cities, have none of the above forms of advanced instructional technology.

More than 70% of Schools Having TV Receivers Use Educational TV

Telecasts from educational (noncommercial) television stations are used by 53% of all schools, or more than 70% of the schools that have TV receivers (which are 75% of all schools). In terms of pupils, about 57% of the Nation's public elementary and secondary school children are in schools which use educational telecasts. More elementary schools than secondary schools report that they use educational telecasts. Proportionately, more schools in large cities than either in the metropolitan areas surrounding these cities or in other areas of the country use educational telecasts. The highest proportion of schools reporting use of educational telecasts is 90%, for large-city elementary schools.

Use of educational telecasts

Category of schools	Schools (No.)		Percent with TV using Ed. telecasts
	Total	With TV receivers	
All public schools [a/]	81,000	61,000	71
All public elementary	56,900	43,700	75
All public secondary	20,200	14,200	59
Large city public	11,500	10,500	86
Metro areas of large cities..	22,600	19,200	72
All other areas	46,900	31,300	64

a/ The total for all schools includes an estimated 3,900 combined elementary-secondary schools which are not included in data by school level.

Few Schools Report Many Units Permitting Simultaneous Instructional Use

Among all schools, the median number of TV receivers provided for classroom use* is 2, and the median number of radios is 1. Both of these figures are influenced by the sizable proportions of schools reporting no TVs and reporting no radios.

Considering only the schools reporting at least one TV receiver, the computed median is 2.8; considering only those schools reporting at least one radio, the median is 1.6. The average number of pupils per school is 539 for all public schools--420 for all elementary schools and 852 for all secondary schools.

It is apparent that simultaneous use of television by different classes is necessarily very limited, at least for many schools. Further indications on this are given by the frequency distributions of schools and pupils by number of TV receivers available for classroom use.

Percent of all public schools and of all pupils in public schools, by number of television receivers for classroom use

Number of television receivers	Total schools (81,000)	Total pupils (44 million)
Total (all numbers)	100%	100%
None	25	19
1 - 4	52	51
5 - 9	13	15
10 or more	10	15

Three of four schools--accounting for 70% of all pupils--have four television receivers or less for classroom use. However, one of ten schools--accounting for 15% of all pupils--have 10 or more television receivers available for classroom use.

* Principals were asked to report sets available to any of the staff for classroom use, excluding any sets owned by staff members or pupils.